

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-7 (Canceled)

8. (New) In a fuel metering unit for a fuel injection system for internal combustion engines with a high-pressure pump driven as a function of the engine speed, wherein the fuel metering unit has a control valve (11) that is actuated by an electromagnet (10) and has a valve piston (25), wherein the valve piston (25) is guided in a valve housing (22), wherein the valve piston (25) is embodied as sleeve-shaped and its inner chamber (26) contains a compression spring (27) that holds it in contact with the armature pin (14), and wherein the rear end of the compression spring (27) rests against a spring plate disposed in the valve bore (24) of the valve housing (22), wherein the wall of the valve housing (22) is provided with at least one, preferably several radial control openings (32) that are formed and/or disposed so that the fuel quantity flowing through the fuel metering unit can be adjusted as a function of the stroke of the valve piston (25), the improvement comprising a shutoff sleeve (51) in the inner chamber (26) of the valve piston (25), the valve piston (25) and the shutoff sleeve (51) constituting a shutoff device.

9. (New) The fuel metering unit according to claim 8, wherein the shutoff device is embodied as a ball valve (52, 53).

10. **(New)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 9, wherein a ball (52) is disposed between the shutoff sleeve (51) and the valve piston (25), and wherein the shutoff sleeve (51) has a sealing seat (53).

11. **(New)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 9, wherein the valve piston (25) has a ball retainer (54), and wherein the ball retainer (54) holds the ball (52) in a definite position in relation to the valve piston (25).

12. **(New)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 10, wherein the valve piston (25) has a ball retainer (54), and wherein the ball retainer (54) holds the ball (52) in a definite position in relation to the valve piston (25).

13. **(New)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 8, wherein one end of the compression spring (27) rests against the shutoff sleeve (51).

14. **(New)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 9, wherein one end of the compression spring (27) rests against the shutoff sleeve (51).

15. **(New)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 10, wherein one end of the compression spring (27) rests against the shutoff sleeve (51).

16. **(New)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 11, wherein one end of the compression spring (27) rests against the shutoff sleeve (51).

17. **(New)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 8, further comprising an annular groove (29) or a guide collar in the shutoff sleeve (51) to contain the compression spring (27).

18. **(New)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 9, further comprising an annular groove (29) or a guide collar in the shutoff sleeve (51) to contain the compression spring (27).

19. **(New)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 10, further comprising an annular groove (29) or a guide collar in the shutoff sleeve (51) to contain the compression spring (27).

20. **(New)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 11, further comprising an annular groove (29) or a guide collar in the shutoff sleeve (51) to contain the compression spring (27).

21. **(New)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 13, further comprising an annular groove (29) or a guide collar in the shutoff sleeve (51) to contain the compression spring (27).

22. **(New)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 8, wherein the control valve (11) can be adjusted by appropriately shifting the shutoff sleeve (51) axially in the valve bore (24) and then fixing it in place.

23. **(New)** The fuel metering unit according to claim 9, wherein the control valve (11) can be adjusted by appropriately shifting the shutoff sleeve (51) axially in the valve bore (24) and then fixing it in place.

24. (New) The fuel metering unit according to claim 10, wherein the control valve (11) can be adjusted by appropriately shifting the shutoff sleeve (51) axially in the valve bore (24) and then fixing it in place.

25. (New) The fuel metering unit according to claim 11, wherein the control valve (11) can be adjusted by appropriately shifting the shutoff sleeve (51) axially in the valve bore (24) and then fixing it in place.

26. (New) The fuel metering unit according to claim 13, wherein the control valve (11) can be adjusted by appropriately shifting the shutoff sleeve (51) axially in the valve bore (24) and then fixing it in place.

27. (New) The fuel metering unit according to claim 17, wherein the control valve (11) can be adjusted by appropriately shifting the shutoff sleeve (51) axially in the valve bore (24) and then fixing it in place.